



TOXICS RELEASE INVENTORY

Guidance for Reporting Compounds and Mixtures

Section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA) requires certain facilities manufacturing, processing, or otherwise using listed toxic chemicals to report the annual quantity of such chemicals entering each environmental medium. Such facilities must also report pollution prevention and recycling data for such chemicals, pursuant to section 6607 of the Pollution Prevention Act, 42 U.S.C. 13106. EPCRA section 313 is also known as the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI).

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DISCLAIMER

This guidance document is intended to assist industry with EPCRA section 313 reporting for compounds and mixtures. In addition to providing an overview of aspects of the statutory and regulatory requirements of the EPCRA section 313 program, this document also provides recommendations to assist industry with EPCRA reporting. These recommendations do not supersede any statutory or regulatory requirements, are subject to change, and are not independently binding on either EPA or covered facilities. Additionally, if a conflict exists between guidance on this site and the statutory or regulatory requirements, the conflict must be resolved in favor of the statute or regulation.

Although EPA encourages industry to consider these recommendations, in reviewing this document, industry should be aware that these recommendations were developed to address common circumstances at typical facilities. The circumstances at a specific facility may significantly differ from those contemplated in the development of this document. Thus, individual facilities may find that the recommendations provided in this document are inapplicable to their processes or circumstances, and that alternative approaches or information are more accurate and/or more appropriate for meeting the statutory and regulatory requirements of EPCRA section 313. To that end, industry should use facility specific information and process knowledge, where available, to meet the requirements of EPCRA section 313. EPCRA section 313 also provides that, in the absence of such readily available data, a reporting facility may make reasonable estimates to meet those EPCRA section 313 requirements. Facilities are encouraged to contact the Agency with any additional or clarifying questions about the recommendations in this document, or if the facility believes that EPA has incorrectly characterized a particular process or recommendation.

Additional guidance documents, including industry specific and chemical specific guidance documents, are also available on TRI's GuideME website:

https://ofmpub.epa.gov/apex/guideme_ext/f?p=guideme:gd-list

SECTION 1.0 DEFINITION OF COMPOUNDS

A “compound” is a distinct chemical that results from the reaction of two or more other chemicals. In the formation of a compound, the reactant chemicals lose their individual chemical identities. Polymers formed as nonreversible reaction products are an example of compounds.

SECTION 2.0 DEFINITION OF MIXTURES

A mixture is any combination of two or more distinct chemicals if the combination is *not* the result of a chemical reaction. In a mixture, the individual components retain their identities. Mixtures include any combination of a chemical and associated impurities. Alloys are mixtures because the individual metals in the alloy retain their chemical identities. Wastes are not mixtures.

SECTION 3.0 MIXTURES MUST BE CONSIDERED FOR SECTION 313 REPORTING

Threshold determinations and release and other waste management calculations for EPCRA section 313 reporting must include the amount of the listed toxic chemical present above the *de minimis* level in all mixtures processed or otherwise used by the facility. If a listed toxic chemical is present in a mixture at or above the *de minimis* level, only the amount of the toxic chemical, and not the mixture itself, is used for threshold determinations and release and other waste management calculations.

SECTION 4.0 SUPPLIER NOTIFICATION AND CONCENTRATION RANGES PROVIDE INFORMATION FOR REPORTING

The supplier notification requirements under 40 CFR Section 372.45 are designed to provide chemical users with information on the identity and concentrations of listed toxic chemicals present in the mixtures that they use. There can still be situations, however, when a facility may not have this information for a mixture. If the facility knows that a mixture contains a toxic chemical but no concentration information is provided by the supplier, then the facility does not have to consider the amount of the toxic chemical present in that mixture for purposes of threshold determinations and release and other waste management calculations. If only a range of concentrations is available for a toxic chemical present in a mixture, the owner/operator should use the midpoint of the “minimum” and “maximum” percentages in order to determine the amount to apply toward thresholds. If a facility owner/operator only knows the lower bound concentration of a toxic chemical present in a mixture, the owner/operator should assume the upper bound concentration is 100 percent, and compute an average based on these lower and upper bound concentration estimates to determine whether thresholds have been exceeded. If there are other known components present in the mixture, the facility owner/operator should subtract out the percentage of these components to determine what a reasonable “maximum” percentage of the toxic chemical could be.

SECTION 5.0 GENERAL TRI REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS

For general instruction regarding compliance with EPCRA section 313 requirements and form completion, please see the most recent version of the Toxic Chemical Release Inventory Reporting Forms and Instructions, available at: https://ofmpub.epa.gov/apex/guideme_ext/f?p=guideme:rfi-home.